

APPROVED
by the Order Nr. IV-196 of the
Minister of Culture of the Republic of
Lithuania of 20 March 2012

THE ACTION PLAN FOR ROMA INTEGRATION INTO THE LITHUANIAN SOCIETY FOR 2012-2014

1. The Action Plan for Roma Integration into the Lithuanian Society for 2012-2014 (hereinafter: the Action Plan) is aimed at promoting participation of Roma in public life, reducing social exclusion, enhancing consciousness within the Roma community as well as increasing public tolerance.
2. This Action Plan was devised with a view to implementing the European Commission's Communication on an EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020 of 5 April 2011, with due regards to the recommendations of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) of 22 June 2011 and the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities of 28 February 2008, as well as on the basis of a sociological survey „Roma Situation: Roma at the Cross-Road of Education and Labour market“ (hereinafter: sociological survey).
3. The Action Plan establishes the following goals:
 - 3.1. to improve the social status of Roma;
 - 3.2. to create conditions for intercultural dialogue.
4. The Action Plan will focus its major attention on the following four areas:

4.1. Education of Roma

The Ministry of Culture collected data, which reveal that during the current decade the number of Roma schoolchildren at comprehensive schools has increased from 276 schoolchildren in the academic year 1996-1997 to 572 schoolchildren in the academic year 2011-2012, respectively. However, the majority of Roma schoolchildren acquire primary education and overcome only few steps of the basic education level. The results of the sociological survey illustrate that a part of

Roma studying at 5th–7th grades has relatively increased. On average, Roma studied at schools from 6 to 7 years and, generally, finished 5 grades. One-fourth of Roma respondents attended only primary school and had finished 1st–4th grades. The major part of Roma did not acquire basic or secondary education. One-third of all Roma surveyed attended a comprehensive school, however, they did not finish more than 8 grades, i.e. did not overcome the basic education level. Only 17.3 percent of Roma surveyed finished 9 or more grades of comprehensive education.

4.2. Participation of Roma in the labour market

The lack of relevant education and qualifications restrict the opportunities of Roma to find a job. Based on the results of the sociological survey, 56.7 percent of adult Roma were unemployed. 40.7 percent of the surveyed indicated that at that time they had a job or occupation (in most cases, these were informal individual activities, such as collection of scrap metal, fortune-telling and trading in the market). Only 8.7 percent of Roma surveyed were employed under the labour contracts, whereas 6.1 percent of the surveyed worked without a labour contract. Social benefits comprised the main source of income for more than one-third of Roma. The majority of Roma surveyed (83.2 percent) indicated having no professional qualification. 16 percent of the respondents pointed out having gained the florist's, tailor's, driver's, mechanics', carpenter's, seller assistant's, musician's speciality.

4.3. Development of Roma social skills

Due to unfavourable living conditions and insufficient education the representatives of Roma lack social skills and human resources in organising their community effectively. Pursuant to the results of the sociological survey, Roma, to a certain extent, narrow their relations within their community and, in principal, apply to health care institutions, educational establishments and institutions of social support. It is significant to note, that 27.5 percent of Roma surveyed, who had school-age children, pointed out that during the last 12 month they neither applied to school institutions nor had any contacts there. For the most part, these were Roma women of different age and unemployed, who addressed to social workers.

4.4. Promotion of public tolerance with regard to Roma

Representatives of Roma undergo discrimination in the labour market, educational system, in service sector and other domains. Following the results presented by the Office of Equal Opportunity Ombudsman, in year 2010 Roma complaints comprised 25 percent of all the complaints submitted to this institution based on nationality, race, ethnicity and national origin. In year 2011, there were no complaints submitted by Roma; whereas the Equal Opportunity Ombudsman initiated one investigation ex officio concerning the case of discrimination of Roma.

The data provided by the Institute for Ethnic Studies at the Lithuanian Social Research Centre suggest that the number of people who would not want Roma in their neighbourhood has been constantly increasing: in year 1990 59 percent of the respondents supported such a view, in 1999 - 62 percent, in 2000 - 77 percent, whereas in 2009 57,8 percent of the respondents agreed with this argument and 64,6 percent in year 2011, respectively. One-third of the citizens of the Republic of Lithuania declares that over the past 5 years their opinion with regard to Roma has worsened considerably or has worsen rather than improved.

5. The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania coordinates the implementation of measures set up in the Action Plan. An intergovernmental working group established under the order of the Minister of Culture conducts monitoring of the measures set up in the Action Plan.
6. The implementation of measures envisaged in the Action Plan will be financed from the general allocations of the State Budget of the Republic of Lithuania, the European Union Structural Funds and the European Commission Programme for Employment and Solidarity - PROGRESS.
7. Upon expiry of the the validity period of the Action Plan in 2014, the Ministry of Culture will prepare a draft legal act, which will ensure continuity of measures promoting Roma integration into the Lithuanian society.

II. GOALS, OBJECTIVES, MEASURES, ALLOCATIONS AND IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS OF THE ACTION PLAN

| Nr. | Name of goal, objective, measure | Implementation term | Allocations, thous.Lt. | | | Implementing organization |
|--------|---|---------------------|------------------------|-----------|-----------|--|
| | | | 2012 year | 2013 year | 2014 year | |
| 1. | Goal: TO IMPROVE THE SOCIAL STATUS OF ROMA | | | | | |
| 1.1 | Objective: TO DEVELOP EDUCATION OF ROMA CHILDREN AND ADULT | | | | | |
| 1.1.1. | Measure: to organize non-formal education for Roma (events, activities) | 2012 – 2014 | 95 | 95 | 95 | Ministry of Culture |
| 1.1.2. | Measure: to organize educational activities for Roma children in The Roma Community Centre * | 2012 | 5 | - | - | Office of Equal Opportunity Ombudsman |
| 1.1.3. | Measure: to establish two job positions of teaching assistants to work with Roma children* | 2012 | 25 | - | - | Office of Equal Opportunity Ombudsman |
| 1.1.4. | Measure: to prepare a review on the integration of Roma children into the educational system* | 2012 | 15 | - | - | Office of Equal Opportunity Ombudsman |
| 1.1.5. | Measure: to include adult Roma into non-formal educational (learning) programmes | 2013 | - | 100 | - | Ministry of Education and Science, Education Development Centre |
| 1.1.6. | Measure: to organize the Lithuanian language courses for Roma representatives | 2012 – 2014 | 8 | 8 | 8 | Ministry of Culture |
| 1.1.7. | Measure: to develop computer literacy skills of Roma | 2012 – 2014 | 20 | 20 | 20 | Ministry of Culture |
| 1.1.8. | Measure: to organize seminars improving the professional qualification of general education teachers who work with Roma children | 2012 – 2014 | 16 | 16 | 16 | Office of Equal Opportunity Ombudsman, Ministry of Education and Science |

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| 1.1.9. | Measure: to organize qualification improvement programmes designated for those school communities, where Roma children make a constituent part | 2013 – 2014 | - | 70 | 70 | Ministry of Education and Science, Education Development Centre |
| 1.1.10. | Measure: to prepare recommendations regarding the inclusion of the teaching aids of the Romani language into the educational process | 2012 | 3 | - | - | Ministry of Education and Science, Education Development Centre |
| Goal: TO DEVELOP SOCIAL SKILLS OF ROMA CHILDREN AND ADULT | | | | | | |
| 1.2.1. | Measure: Through competition procedure to finance the Children Day Centres, attended by Roma children ** | 2012 | 100 | - | - | Ministry of Social Security and Labour |
| 1.2.2. | Measure: to organize target occupancy of Roma children during the summertime, setting up summer camps which foster a sense of national identity | 2012 – 2014 | 15 | 20 | 20 | Ministry of Culture |
| 1.2.3. | Measure: to organize a training seminar „Identify discrimination“ for Roma representatives and leaders of non-governmental organizations working with them ** | 2012 – 2014 | 6 | 6 | 6 | Office of Equal Opportunity Ombudsman |
| 1.2.4. | Measure: to organize the provision of intercultural mediation service for Roma community representatives | 2012 – 2014. | 50 | 60 | 60 | Ministry of Culture |
| 1.2.5. | Measure: to disseminate information to Roma on the following issues: the citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania, the process of issuing (changing) personal identity cards, passports, residence permits to live in the territory of Lithuania | 2012 – 2014 | - | - | - | Migration Board of Vilnius County Police Headquarters |
| 1.2.6. | Measure: to prepare and implement a project on healthy lifestyle, to organize events fostering a healthy lifestyle in places of dense population or study of Roma | 2012 – 2014 | 4 | 8 | 8 | Vilnius City Municipality, Vilnius City Municipality Public Health Bureau |
| 1.2.7. | Measure: to organize a cycle of lectures for Roma | 2012 – 2014. | 3 | 4 | 4 | Vilnius City |

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| | girls and women on sanitation and hygiene issues | | | | | | Municipality, Vilnius City Municipality Public Health Bureau |
| 1.2.8. | Measure: to develop sociocultural services for Roma community exploiting the currently existing infrastructure (The Children Day Centres, the houses of culture, schools and others)***** | 2014 | - | - | 2000 | | Ministry of Culture |
| 1.3. | Goal: TO PROMOTE INCLUSION OF ROMA INTO THE LABOUR MARKET | | | | | | |
| 1.3.1. | Measure: To disseminate information on active labour market policy measures that provide Roma an opportunity for taking an active part therein, as well as to implement these measures. | 2012 – 2014 | - | - | - | | Ministry of Social Security and Labour, Lithuanian Labour Exchange under the Ministry of Security and Labour |
| 1.3.2. | Measure: During the EU Structural Funds programming period 2007-2013 to finance competitively selected projects aimed at assisting Roma children who are at social risk and experience social exclusion, to get integrated into the labour market so as to avoid their social exclusion*** | 2012 – 2014 | 200 | 900 | 900 | | Ministry of Social Security and Labour |
| 2. | Goal : TO CREATE CONDITIONS FOR INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE | | | | | | |
| 2.1. | Objective: TO ENHANCE THE OPINNESS OF ROMA CULTURE AND TO INCREASE PUBLIC TOLERANCE | | | | | | |
| 2.1.1. | Measure: To finance competitively selected projects promoting tolerance and spread of Roma culture | 2012 – 2014 | 25 | 35 | 35 | | Ministry of Culture |
| 2.1.2. | Measure: To collect information about Roma victims of the Holocaust during the period 1941-1945 and to publish a brochure. | 2012 | 4 | - | - | | Ministry of Culture |

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| 2.1.3. | Measure: To collect information about Roma folklore and to publish a CD on traditional Roma songs. | 2012 – 2013 | 5 | 15 | - | Ministry of Culture |
| 2.1.4. | Measure: to issue an illustrated publication on Roma history. | 2014 | - | - | 20 | Ministry of Culture |
| 2.1.5. | Measure: to organize seminars, educational trainings, discussions for public officials, trade union representatives and other target groups with a view to promote equal opportunities and non-discrimination. | 2012 – 2014 | 30 | 30 | 30 | Office of Equal Opportunity Ombudsman, Ministry of Culture |
| 2.1.6. | Measure: to prepare and implement awareness-raising measures promoting equal opportunities and non-discrimination (publications, posters, TV commercials, television and radio programmes, training, etc.). | 2012 – 2014 | 10 | 10 | 10 | Office of Equal Opportunity Ombudsman |
| 2.1.7. | Measure: to create and include into general educational programmes the material on Roma history and ethnic culture | 2012 | 5 | - | - | Ministry of Education and Science, Education Development Centre |
| 2.1.8. | Measure: In public media to disseminate information regarding Roma culture and traditions as well as the protection of their rights. | 2013 – 2014 | - | 6 | 6 | Ministry of Culture |
| 2.1.9. | Measure: to conduct a survey exploring the public attitude change and to perform the analysis of the results **** | 2014 | - | - | 50 | Ministry of Social Security and Labour |
| 2.1.10. | Measure: to carry out a sociological survey on the situation of Roma in Lithuania | 2014 | - | - | 50 | Ministry of Culture |
| 1. | The total budget of the Republic of Lithuania (Lt) | | | | | |
| 1.1. | Of which: co-financing budget allocations | | 396 | 503 | 508 | |
| 1.2. | The EU and other international financial aid funds | | 251 | 900 | 2900 | |
| Total Action Plan funding | | | 647 | 1403 | 3408 | |
| Total funding for the implementation of the Action Plan for the period 2012-2014 | | | | | | 5 458 |

* In year 2012, this measure will be funded by the European Union Employment and Social Solidarity PROGRESS program (2007 – 2013), within the framework of implementing measures of the project „C.A.F.E. Changing Attitude Fostering Equality“.

** The Day Centers will be funded in the period 2013 - 2014, after establishing a new support procedure for the Children Day Care Center.

***This measure will be implemented in pursuance of measure VPI-1.3-SADM-02 „The integration of social risk and socially excluded persons into the labour market“ set up as priority 1 „ High Quality Employment and Social Coverage“ in the Operational Programme for the Development of Human Resources 2007-2013.

****This measure will be implemented within the framework of measure 2.2. of the Inter-Institutional Action Plan for Promotion of Non-Discrimination for 2012-2014 , approved by the Resolution Nr.1281 of 2 November 2011 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania (The Official Gazette, 2011, Nr. 134-6362).

*****This measure will be funded by using the EU Structural Fund support for 2014-2020.

III. EVALUATION CRITERIA OF THE ACTION PLAN

| Nr. | Names and units of evaluation criteria of goals and objectives | Value of evaluation criteria | | | Implementing organization |
|--------|---|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| | | 2012 year | 2013 year | 2014 year | |
| 1. | Goal 1: TO IMPROVE THE SOCIAL STATUS OF ROMA | 140 | 220 | 220 | Ministry of Culture |
| 1.1. | Goal 1 Objective 1: TO DEVELOP EDUCATION OF ROMA CHILDREN AND ADULT | | | | |
| 1.1.1. | Number of Roma children and youth who participated in non-formal educational groups | 30 | 30 | 30 | Ministry of Culture |
| 1.1.2. | Number of established job positions of teaching assistant | 2 | - | - | Office of Equal Opportunity Ombudsman |
| 1.1.3. | Number of created reviews on the integration of Roma children into educational system | 1 | - | - | Office of Equal Opportunity Ombudsman |
| 1.1.4. | Number of Roma, who completed the Lithuanian language courses | 10 | 10 | 10 | Ministry of Culture |
| 1.1.5. | Number of Roma, who are provided with the computer literacy skills services | 50 | 50 | 50 | Ministry of Culture |
| 1.1.6. | Number of seminars improving the professional | 1 | 1 | 1 | Office of Equal |

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|--------|---|------|------|------|---|
| | qualification of general education teachers who work with Roma children | | | | Opportunity Ombudsman |
| 1.1.7. | Number of prepared recommendations regarding the inclusion of teaching aids of the Romani language into the general educational process | 1 | - | - | Ministry of Education and Science, Education Development Centre |
| 1.2. | Goal 1 Objective 2: TO DEVELOP SOCIAL SKILLS OF ROMA CHILDREN AND ADULTS | | | | |
| 1.2.1. | Number of Roma children who acquired social assistance service at the Day Centre | 95 | - | - | Ministry of Social Security and Labour |
| 1.2.2. | Number of Roma children who took part in summer camps | 15 | 20 | 20 | Ministry of Culture |
| 1.2.3. | Number of trainings designated for Roma community representatives and leaders of non-governmental organisations who work with them | 1 | 1 | 1 | Office of Equal Opportunity Ombudsman |
| 1.2.4. | Number of hours of the provided intercultural mediation service (two intercultural mediators) | 1000 | 1200 | 1200 | Ministry of Culture |
| 1.2.5. | Number of organised events for Roma community representatives aimed at providing them with information about the citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania, issue (change) of personal identity cards, passports and permits to reside in the territory of Lithuania | 2 | 2 | 2 | Migration Board of Vilnius County Police Headquarters |
| 1.5.1. | Number of lectures on healthy lifestyle | 3 | 4 | 4 | Vilnius City Municipality Public Health Bureau |
| 1.5.2. | Number of activities on hygiene | 2 | 4 | 4 | Vilnius City Municipality Public Health Bureau |
| 1.3. | Goal 1 Objective 3 : TO PROMOTE THE INCLUSION OF ROMA INTO THE LABOUR MARKET | | | | |
| 1.3.1. | Number of Roma, who are provided with social and professional rehabilitation services | 30 | 105 | 105 | Ministry of Social Security and Labour |
| 2. | Objective 2: TO CREATE CONDITIONS FOR INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE | | | | |
| | The sustained positive public opinion about Roma | 36,4 | 36,4 | 36,4 | Ministry of Culture |

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|--------|---|---------------|---|---|--|
| | national minority (in percent) | | | | |
| 2.1. | Goal 2 Objective 1: TO ENHANCE THE OPINNESS OF ROMA CULTURE AND TO INCREASE PUBLIC TOLERANCE | | | | |
| 2.1.1. | Number of brochures on Roma victims of the Holocaust in the period of 1941-1945 | 1 (200 units) | - | - | Ministry of Culture |
| 2.1.2. | Number of CDs on Roma traditional songs | - | 1 | - | Ministry of Culture |
| 2.1.3. | Number of publications about Roma history | - | - | 1 | Ministry of Culture |
| 2.1.4. | Number of conducted surveys on public attitude change and performed analysis of the results | - | - | 1 | Ministry of Social Security and Labour |
| 2.1.5. | Number of sociological surveys on the situation of Roma in Lithuania | - | - | 1 | Ministry of Culture |